

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 33-35 and 104-107 are now pending in this application.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 34 and 104. Because applicants believe that claim 33, from which these claims depend, is allowable for at least the reasons set forth below, applicants have elected not to place these claims in independent form. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 34 and 104 are in condition for allowance without further amendment.

**Rejection Under 35 USC §112**

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶2, as indefinite. The Office Action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the elongated vertical wall” in line 2 and “the leg engaging member” in line 3. Claim 35 does not contain these limitations. For at least this reason, applicants traverse the rejection of claim 35 under 35 USC §112, ¶2.

If the Office Action meant to refer to claim 34, applicants respectfully point out that claim 34 depends from claim 104, which recites “an elongated vertical wall” in lines 1-2 and “a leg engaging member” in line 3 (see Amendment and Reply filed June 12, 2002). Thus, claim 104 provides sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations in claim 34.

**Rejection Under 35 USC §102 (b)**

Claims 33, 35, and 105-107 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Garland (USP 5,934,747). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claim 33 defines a leg assembly that includes “a spring positioned between the sleeve and the slider and supporting the slider relative to the sleeve.” The Office Action states that this limitation is met in Garland by a spring 86, a sleeve 68, and a slider 72. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that upper leg portion 68 in Garland is a sleeve and lower leg portion 72 is a slider, the spring 86 is not positioned between the sleeve 68 and the slider 72. Instead, the

spring 86 is positioned between a foot portion 74 (labeled leg 74 in the Office Action) and the slider 72. Because Garland does not teach or suggest “a spring positioned *between* the sleeve and the slider,” Garland does not anticipate claim 33. For at least this reason, applicants traverse the rejection of claim 33 and its dependent claim 35 under 35 USC §102(b).

Claim 105 defines a leg assembly that includes “a spring base mounted to the sleeve” and “a spring positioned between the spring base and the slider and supporting the slider relative to the spring base.” The Office Action identifies spring tab 80 in Garland as a spring base. Garland’s spring tab 80 is integrally formed in an outer surface of upper leg portion 68. See Garland, col. 5, lines 1-2. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that spring tab 80 is a spring base and lower leg portion 72 is a slider, the spring 86 is not positioned *between* the spring base 80 and the slider 72. In fact, the spring 86 is positioned between a foot portion 74 and the slider 72, and it is internal to both the upper leg portion 68, of which the spring base 80 is a part, and the slider 72. Because Garland does not teach or suggest “a spring positioned between the spring base and the slider,” Garland does not anticipate claim 105. For at least this reason, applicants traverse the rejection of claim 105 and its dependent claims 106-107 under 35 USC §102(b).

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action in the form of an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the prosecution of this

application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OR IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.